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SOURCE Ibuk T'ongsin.JAPANESE PRISONERS AS CCF TROOPS

There are two reasons behind the USSR's return of Japanese war prisoners: (1) The Soviets were convinced that certain Japanese prisoners are useless insofar as the Soviet program in the Far East is concerned; however, they figured that if a large number of the prisoners are returned while the Japanese government is struggling with economic reconstruction, the returning prisoners would constitute an added problem to the existing confusion in Japan, thus providing more propaganda issues for the Japanese Communists. (2) By returning the "undesirable" Japanese prisoners, the Soviets hope to put forth the argument that all Japanese prisoners have been returned and that no Japanese soldier has participated in the South China campaign against the KMT forces.

There is a big difference in the calculation of Japanese prisoners. The Soviets count about 30,000-40,000 prisoners less than SCAP in Tokyo. It is an open secret that some of these 30,000 Japanese soldiers are now in action as a part of the CCF. According to a reliable source, the CCF organized a complete Japanese combat division and sent it to participate in the Hsu-chou campaign.

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- 1 -

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